



August 18, 2016

Ben Hur



Friends, Colleagues, movie-lovers, lend me your eyes. This remake of the original classic starring Charlton Heston is worth getting on line for. The usual critics have not been kind with the comparisons to the 1959 Oscar winner, but if you can get past that and pretend this is the first time you've seen the story, then you will enjoy the chariot ride. I thought Jack Huston was great in the role. No he isn't the rugged macho persona à la Heston, but he brings a compassion forged by suffering to the part.

Huston is a fine actor who was a pivotal character, Richard Harrow, in the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*. You cannot fault his performance in this movie. Every actor is going to bring to a role his own interpretation. Every director has a different lens. The story about two men whose family ties are challenged by the different paths they are destined to follow remains classic. The audience I

saw it with applauded at the end. The chariot race was exciting and with the advances in computer imagining, it was pretty impressive.

The story of *Ben Hur* is one of transformation, of love in the face of dire circumstances and of loyalty, faith and hope. It is also a story of vengeance and forgiveness. These are the things to take away as you crunch your popcorn. The movie is free of foul language and nudity. There is some violence but much worse can be found on television these days.



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Ben Hur won't win awards, but it might win your heart if you are looking for timeless tales that speak to our society. Fans of Morgan Freeman will enjoy his appearance in the film, although I would have liked to see Idris Elba in the part. If you look at this as a good "B" movie, you won't be disappointed. Get caught up in the story and hang on for the ride. I found the movie entertaining. I give it three golden Tickets.

